THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) In terms of Rule 20 of the Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Conduct, Discipline & Appeal Rules, 1978, the appointing authority or any other authority to which it is subordinate or the disciplinary authority or any such empowered authority may place an employee under suspension when (i) a disciplinary proceedings against the employee is contemplated or pending; (ii) when a case against the employee in respect of any criminal offence is under investigation or trial. Suspension is not an automatic and mechanical process. The attendant circumstances, gravity of the charge and such relevant factors whether the employee concerned is likely to tamper with documents, evidence or influence witnesses and others, are also looked into.

(b) The disciplinary procedure in case of un-authorised absence from duty for 4 days and less than 30 days is laid down in rule 25 of IDPL Conduct, Discipline and Appeal Rules, 1978.

Sick/Closed Fertilizer Plants

1596. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of fertilizer plants in the country which are sick, closed or inoperative;

(b) what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the total production capacity of these plants; and

(d) whether any measures taken to make these plants operative ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) and (b) The Board for Industrial and Financial Re-construction (BIFR) have declared the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (HFC) and the Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) as sick companies. HFC owns three running fertilizer plants besides Haldia project which could not be commissioned. FCI owns four units, out of which one unit at Gorakhpur is lying closed since June, 1990 following an accident in the plant. Low capacity utilisation resulting from design deficiency, equipment problems, power limitations, constraint of funds for repairs and maintenance and purchase of raw material, etc., are the major reasons for poor performance of the various units of HFC and FCI.

The Fertilizer Association of India have reported that at the end of October, 1992, 28 privately owned units with varying capacities, in the medium and small scale sector producing Single Superphosphates, a phosphatic fertiliser, were closed for various reasons including liquidity problems caused by imposition of ceiling on subsidy, etc. A few other insignificant units have also been closed down by the respective managements because of unremunerative operations.

(c) and (d) The annual production capacity of HFC units and FCI units is 654 thousand and 806 thousand tonnes of Nitrogen, respectively. The total annual capacity of SSP units which were closed as on 31-10-1992 is about 11.5 lakh tonnes of SSP. However, closure of SSP units is a temporary phenomenon and most of them may resume production once their liquidity problems are sorted out.

An outlay of Rs. 227 crores for HFC & Rs. 430 crores for FCI has been proposed for the Eighth Plan for the various schemes including revamping/rehabilitation of their units. Actual implementation of the revamping measures will, hwever, depand on technical and financial viability of the revamping measures and availability of funds through budgetary sources.

उत्तर प्रदेश में पेट्रो-रसायन परियोजनाएं

1597. चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :—

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश में इस समय चल रही पेट्रो-रसायन परियोजनाओं की कुल संख्या कितनी है ;